The invention claimed is:

1. A method of managing signal-processing resources of a multimedia platform that is designed for applying signal-processing operations to multimedia signals, comprising:

defining multimedia functions each capable of monitoring the operation of a set of multimedia platform signal-processing resources, putting them in contact, and adapting the contents of said signal-processing resource set depending on the multimedia signal to be processed; and

using said multimedia functions to apply said signal-processing operations to said multimedia signals.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein:

prior to applying any signal-processing operations to multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia signals in a given application.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein:

defining multimedia functions comprises

assembling basic functions that are configured for using the resources that are available on the multimedia platform.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein:

prior to applying any signal-processing operations to multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia signals in a given application.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein:

each signal-processing resource of the multimedia platform belongs to a type of resource, and

the signal-processing resources of a same type are controlled by the sam\ontrol instructions.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein:

prior to applying any signal-processing operations to multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia signals in a given application.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein:

the resources that are available on the multimedia platform are declared to a negotiation device of the multimedia platform when they are powered-on for a first time.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein:

prior to applying any signal-processing operations to multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia signals in a given application.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein:

each signal-processing resource of the multimedia platform belongs to a type of resource, and

the signal-processing resources of a same type are controlled by the same control instructions.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein:

prior to applying any signal-processing operations to multimedia signals, a multimedia function group is formed, wherein this group includes all multimedia functions required for processing multimedia signals in a given application.

11. An apparatus for managing signal-processing resources of a multimedia platform that is designed for applying signal-processing operations to multimedia signals, comprising:

means for defining multimedia functions each capable of monitoring the operation of a set of multimedia platform signal-processing resources, putting them in contact, and adapting the contents of said signal-processing resource set depending on the multimedia signal to be processed; and

means for using said multimedia functions to apply said signal-processing operations to said multimedia signals.

12. A multimedia platform for defining multimedia functions each capable of monitoring the operation of a set of multimedia platform signal-processing resources, putting them in contact, adapting the contents of said signal-processing resource set depending on the multimedia signal to be processed, and using said multimedia functions to apply said signal-processing operations to said multimedia signals, and including a plurality of signal-processing resources, comprising:

a resource interface (3) wherein operations are defined that make it possible to control said signal-processing resources;

a resource management unit (2) for dynamically allocating signal-processing resources depending on the signal-processing operation to be carried out and managing exchanges among signal-processing resources;

an application interface (5) wherein said multimedia functions are defined; and

an application unit (4) having an application program for applying said multimedia functions.